

START  
AGAIN

## In with the New

Week of July 31, 2016

Start Again • Numbers 26-30 • Message 8

## In with the New — Numbers 26-30

Read Numbers 26:1-11. In the wilderness, God had judged Korah and his followers, but God also preserved Korah's descendents. What do you think of that?

If you compare the numbers given in chapter 26 with the numbers in chapter 1-3, you notice that they are almost exactly the same. After 40 years of wilderness wandering and an entire generation dead, the census numbers are basically the same. What do you think of that?

At the end of the wilderness wandering, with a generation dead, there are three final problems. Consider these:

Some families have lost all the male heirs, what should happen to that inheritance? God's answer is that women can handle it. Women can own property and women can handle making religious vows and business commitments. God gives husbands and fathers one-time veto power over the decisions of their wives or daughters, but God also establishes their right to own property and conduct business. What do you think of all that?

Even though an entire generation has died, Moses still hasn't. God's answer is that it is now time for Moses to die, so he tells Moses to appoint Joshua as his replacement. What do you think of that?

Finally, the current generation has known nothing but the wilderness. They weren't around at Mount Sinai, and they haven't experienced any normal rhythm of life as they have been nomads for 40 years. God's answer will come fully in Moses' final message recorded in Deuteronomy, but in Numbers, he reviews his commands about the rhythm of the Israelite year. Specifically, God reminds them of the sacrificial rhythm—at the new day, the new week, the new month, the new year, the new harvest, and then a full month spiritual reset in the seventh month. Why do you think God commanded a sacrifice at these “new” moments?

## Take it Home

Beginning in Numbers 26, everything is new. There is a new land across the river, a new generation of people, a new leader, a new understanding of the role of women, a new rhythm of life about to begin. However, in all the newness, there is repeated proof that God is just as faithful as always.

What does it mean to you that even when everything is new, God is faithful?

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